

SIMS' DESIRE WAS A "PRUSSIAN" NAVY, DECLARES DANIELS

Says Motive of Admiral's Criticism Was to Overcome Civilian Control.

**WANTED "RUBBER-STAMP
SECRETARY," IS CHARGE**

Many Officers Planned Elimination of Cabinet Head, He Asserts.

HAD MILITARY DICTATOR IDEA

Wished to Create General Staff on
Lines of Von Tirpitz
Regime.

WASHINGTON, May 17.—Desir-
"to Prussianize the Navy Depart-
ment" was ascribed by Sena-

Daniels today as one of Rear-Admiral Sims' underlying motives in criticizing the department's conduct of the war. The secretary, testifying before the Senate investigating committee, also charged that

"The original charge showed hostility to certain officers and a desire to damage the ranking of officers who directly influenced the testimony supporting Admiral Sims' position was from officers who wished to remove civilian control of the Navy Department and make the secretary a 'rubber stamp.'"

...who directed the operation during the war," said Mr. Daniels, speaking of Admiral Sims' critical letter of January 7, "and the evidence has disclosed a desire to misrepresent the Secretary of the Navy because he was not a rubber stamp secretary. But deeper than criticism and error, the

Mr. Daniels said if the committee

desired to raise the general staff issue he was willing to go to the country with it. If Congress approved the plan, he declared, would "create a general staff on the German model and name some Von Tirpitz to rule the navy, make an admiral secretary and member of

the Cabinet, and civilians ineligible for the post and put some Sims in control of the navy with a nominal civilian secretary as his clerk, messenger and rubber stamp."

"Most of those who advocate this radical departure seek to camouflage their Prussian ideas," the second

retary said. "They say they d
favor a civilian secretary and hav
no thought of a naval officer fo
secretary. What they desire is
civilian rubber-stamp secretar
with no power except to draw hi
salary and 'sign here' when the
military chieftains tell him whe

Civilians Had Hard Struggle.
Mr. Daniels asserted that all recent secretaries had been confronted with a struggle to keep the navy under civilian control and quote former Secretaries Welles, Long and Meyer and former Assistant

Secretary Darling to show the strenuous efforts they found necessary to put forth to keep authority in the hands of the civilian secretary.

Admiral Fiske, he asserted, "in combination with six other subordinate officers in the department and a member of Congress who was a former officer in the navy" undertook "surreptitiously and secretly" to impose his ideas as to duties of the chief of navigation on the

Criticizes Fiske Legislation.
"Admiral Fiske's surreptitious legislation, had it passed," the secretary added, "would have put an officer of the navy in a position where he would have had the power and authority of the Prussian chief of staff."

Mr. Daniels devoted much of the day to a review of the work of the navy's supply system in the war and to an extensive resume of the controversy that followed his famous order banishing liquor

**PROPOSE OIL CORPORATION
UNDER NATIONAL AUSPICES**

courage Petroleum Exploitation.
[By Associated Press.]
WASHINGTON, May 17.—Organ-
ization of the United States Oil Cor-
poration, modeled on the plan of the
Shipping Board, to encourage and
stimulate development by American
of oil lands outside the United States

The corporation would be controlled by nine directors, appointed by the President, ownership of stock being restricted to American citizens. The government would retain

Senator Phelan, in introducing the resolution, cited the efforts being made by Great Britain to assist her nationals in the development of new oil resources. England, he contended, has secured new control over a preferential right to take over all or any part of the product for its own use.

60 per cent of the "oil potentialities" of the world, he said.